



February 19th, 2025

Testimony for HB 905

Position: Favorable

Safe Staffing Act of 2025

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding a hearing on this timely and important legislation. Given the critical staffing shortage in hospitals and the need for more nurses, The Safe Staffing Act of 2025 offers an excellent solution to this problem. Creating safe staffing conditions will help our hospitals recruit and retain the workforce they need to meet Marylander's needs.

Progressive Maryland is a statewide grassroots advocacy group working for a more robust, equitable and patient centered healthcare system. Like all of you, we regularly hear stories from our members about very long, frustrating wait times in the Emergency Room. That's why we were pleased to join the Patient Worker Collaborative, a coalition that's come together to raise concerns about ER wait times and the ongoing hospital staffing shortage that contributes to them.

This legislation gives hospitals the guidance they need to develop nurse staffing committees and staffing plans that will better serve the goals of staff retention, workplace safety, and most importantly, patient care. It's not acceptable for our state to have the worst ER wait time record in the country year after year. The negative impact this has on patients and patient outcomes can't be stressed enough.

We need this important measure and most Marylanders and direct care givers would agree. We urge you to vote in favor of the Act and ask your House colleagues to do the same.

I also want to include the testimony of one of our volunteer leaders, Jackie MacMillan.

“TESTIMONY ON HB905: SAFE STAFFING ACT OF 2025
POSITION: FAVORABLE

Hon. Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing to support HB905, the Hospital Safe Staffing Committees bill, which addresses Maryland’s long-running hospital staffing crisis. Enacting HB905 would help protect hospital patients and healthcare workers, increase transparency and accountability, and improve job satisfaction and retention.

Involving direct care workers in the creation of staffing plans is a commonsense step toward achieving better hospital care in Maryland. Nurses and technicians play a critical role in our safety, comfort, and recovery in the hospital, at those moments when we are most vulnerable. HB905 would help make sure that these direct care staff are adequately supported, so that they can support us when we need them. I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB905.

Jacqueline MacMillan
Baltimore, MD”

Thank you for your consideration of Progressive Maryland’s testimony, as well as that of Ms. MacMilan.

Sincerely,

Patty Snee, Healthcare Issue Campaigns

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Takoma Park